

HUERTA RUSHES HELP

Federal Reinforcements Hurrying to Aid of Torreon.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Mexico City, March 23.—Very meagre news comes from Torreon. It is reported that the rebels are bombarding Gómez Palacio, and rebel sympathizers assert that the Federals are falling back.

Telegraphic communication with Torreon is interrupted, but rumors reaching the capital speak of a military train blown up at Hipolito with reinforcements aboard from Monterey for Torreon. This is unconfirmed, but rail communication between Torreon and Saltillo is interrupted, as it is also between Saltillo and Monterrey. Rebels set fire to ten empty freight cars at the Santa Maria station and sent them running wild with an engine until they were derailed and obstructed the track. Zapatistas derailed a passenger train yesterday on the Inter-Oceanic Railway, between Los Reyes and Ayotlán, about twenty-five miles from this city. Seven passengers were injured.

It is known that General Javier de la Huerta, who recently left this city with two thousand men, and who was reported bound for Matamoros to attempt to recapture that place, is really hastening as fast as transportation facilities enable him to Torreon, to reinforce the garrison there.

BENTON STABBED, PERCEVAL REPORTS

British Consul Finds Englishman Was Killed with Knife in Villa's Office.

Washington, March 23.—The inquiry into the death of William S. Benton, the British subject, five weeks ago in Juarez, directed by the British Foreign Office, has been concluded, and the results were laid before the British Ambassador here today, for transmission to London. The investigation was conducted by C. E. S. Perceval, British Consul at Galveston, whose district includes the town of El Paso, opposite Juarez.

From evidence that he was able to obtain, Consul Perceval reports that Benton, disregarding the advice and appeals of his wife, proceeded directly to General Villa's headquarters, with the double purpose of protesting against the spoliation of his ranch, and to secure the privilege of marketing his cattle in the United States. So extensive had been the raids on his livestock by the Constitutionalists that he told his friends that he had determined to save what he could of the herd by getting it out of the country.

The testimony quoted by the consul makes it appear that Benton was unarmed when he entered Juarez and sought Villa's headquarters; that he entered Villa's office and that there was a tremendous scuffle, followed by perfect quiet. No witness could be found who heard the sound of a shot. Benton did not emerge from the office alive, but where and when his body was removed the report does not disclose.

The consul drew the inference that Benton had been killed with a knife and that his body had been secretly removed and buried somewhere in the immediate neighborhood, though there was no direct testimony to sustain this inference.

According to the British view, nothing further can be done in the case at this stage.

PAGE ON SAFE SIDE, STICKS TO HIS TEXT

Confines Speech at Gorgas Dinner to Praising Wilson—Doctors Honor General.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, March 23.—A noticeable feature of the dinner given to Brigadier General William C. Gorgas, surgeon general of the United States Army, by the medical profession of London to-night was that Ambassador Page made no attempt at extemporaneous remarks, but read his speech throughout from a typewritten copy, and confined himself almost entirely to a eulogy of President Wilson. The dinner was given as a tribute to the splendid work done by General Gorgas as chief of the sanitary department at Panama. Viscount Bryce of Dechnant, former Ambassador at Washington, presided. Lord Bryce and Lewis Harcourt, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, were instrumental in having General Gorgas investigate the conditions in the South African mines, from which he has just returned. Mr. Harcourt, however, was not able to be present.

Among those who joined in doing honor to the American were Sir Rickman Godlee, president of the Royal College of Surgeons; Sir Francis H. Champneys, president of the Royal College of Medicine; Sir Thomas Barlow, president of the Royal College of Physicians; Sir Francis Ferrier, president of the Medical Society; Sir Havelock Charles, president of the Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Sir Havelock Charles paid a glowing tribute to General Gorgas, who responded in a characteristically modest speech. Ambassador Page warmly commented on President Wilson's co-operation with Congress. He said that the President's method of approaching Congress directly was scientific as well as human and friendly, and that Congress had responded in as handsome a way as the President had displayed in approaching it, and had thus far proved to be the most industrious and efficient Congress assembled in a lifetime.

EX-POLICEMAN CONVICTED

Egan Guilty of Extortion of Money from Woman.

Henry A. Egan, formerly a policeman of the Lenox avenue station, was convicted yesterday before Judge Nott in General Sessions on a charge of having extorted money and jewelry from Mrs. Mildred Elmore, of No. 351 West 25th street, by threatening to report her for running an alleged resort.

Egan and Thomas Seery, also a patrolman, were arrested on January 28 at 7th street and Central Park West, where it is claimed, they were to meet Mrs. Elmore and receive money for a ring she had given them. It was found that the diamond in the ring had been replaced by a paste stone. Seery was indicted at the same time and will be tried today. Mrs. Elmore, who testified in the magistrate's court against Egan, is missing.

MEXICAN FEDERAL FIRE ON AMERICANS

Shoot Across River at Troops Receiving Fleeing Rebel Refugees.

SOLDIERS ANSWER WITH RIFLE BALLS

Battle Lasts 15 Minutes—Several Mexicans Fall, but No American Is Wounded.

Eagle Pass, Tex., March 23.—Mexican Federal soldiers who tried to pursue with rifle bullets a defeated Constitutional force escaping to the United States and safety met sharp resistance yesterday from United States cavalry of the border patrol at McKeague's Crossing, above Del Rio, Tex.

When three horses held by the American troopers had been shot down the Americans returned fire across the Rio Grande, and after the exchange of shots the Mexicans withdrew, bearing with them their dead and wounded.

No American was hurt. How many of the Mexican soldiers were killed or wounded is not known.

Official reports of the occurrence to Colonel Sibley, commanding at Fort Clark here, caused him to issue orders for all available cavalry of the border to proceed to Del Rio. One troop and a machine gun platoon left Eagle Pass today.

Another engagement between Mexican Federal and Constitutionalists is expected to-morrow in the same territory.

The clash across the international line was brought on, according to official reports to headquarters here, by persistent firing by the Federals at the fleeing Constitutionalists who had gained American territory and surrendered to United States troops.

For ten minutes Captain Winterburn, of Troop E, 10th Cavalry, signalled to the Federals to cease firing, but he reported that his signals were disregarded and his own men were in danger. He then ordered his detachment of fifteen troopers to fire, and a sharp fusillade that followed lasted about fifteen minutes.

The Constitutionalists defeated yesterday were a scouting party led into a trap by the Federals, who earlier in the day had captured Las Vacas, opposite Del Rio. They abandoned the town, but returned suddenly to attack the rebel scouts.

About forty-five Constitutionalists were cut off by three hundred Federals at McKeague's Crossing, on the Rio Grande, where the rebels put up a stubborn resistance until overpowered by numbers. They then began retreating across the river to the American side, where Captain Winterburn's detachment of cavalry was on duty to preserve neutrality.

Of the forty-five Constitutionalists only twenty-seven reached the Texas bank. Several were killed in the water, their bodies floating downstream.

There was no further trouble, and it was said here that the additional troops were ordered to Del Rio because of the expected battle to-morrow.

A force of about seven hundred Constitutionalists was reported advancing from the southwest to Las Vacas, where the Federal command is stationed. A rebel company that has been encamped opposite Langtry, Tex., also is moving down the river toward Las Vacas.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

El Paso, Tex., March 23.—Private dispatches from Del Rio to-night say that the situation there is tense, following the exchange of shots across the Rio Grande by American and Mexican Federal troops. As a rebel force is reported moving upon Las Vacas, opposite Del Rio, it is feared another battle on the Mexican side is imminent and that the Federals may resume firing on the American border patrol.

Washington, March 23.—Frank approval

of the action of the American troops who returned the fire of Mexican Federal troops at Del Rio yesterday was expressed here today in official circles.

The War Department stands squarely behind Brigadier General Bliss in his determination to inflict prompt punishment on Mexicans of any faction who willfully fire across the line and endanger American life and property. Some time ago General Bliss, after having repeatedly warned the Mexican military commanders against indiscriminate shooting across the line, instructed the officers in command of the American border patrol to return any such fire if they were satisfied that American soldiers were being made targets.

MERE "COLD" IS DEATH AID

Mild Influenza Causes Mortality Rate Increase.

Influenza, in its mildest form known as a "cold," is wholly responsible, Health Department officials say, for a jump in last week's death rate. The increase is six-tenths of a point over that of the corresponding seven days last year.

Tuberculosis and "deaths of violence" were also on the increase.

The mortality of infants less than a year old was slightly greater, too, but for older children who struggled with measles, whooping cough or even scarlet and typhoid fever there were less serious consequences.

On the whole, conditions are better this year. In the first twelve weeks of 1914 the death rate dropped .29 of a point.

STUDIES NEGRO IN COURT

Roosevelt's Sister Sits on Bench with Atlanta Judge.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Atlanta, March 23.—Mrs. Louisa Robinson, of New York, sister of former President Roosevelt, this morning sat on the bench with Recorder Nash Broyles and was a deeply interested witness of the day's proceedings.

"It was very impressive," she said afterward. "At times, of course, it was very amusing. It was a pleasure to see a court handled so well, and Recorder Broyles certainly seemed to be a splendid judge."

"I had always wanted to see a Southern police court to get a more intimate glimpse of the Southern daily, and I won't soon forget my experience today."

Before leaving Atlanta for Savannah Mrs. Robinson visited an Atlanta store, where she saw the cradle in which her brother was rocked.

SEARCH WEST SIDE FOR KIDNAPPED BOY

Police Hear 7-Year-Old Warren McCarrick, of Philadelphia, Is Here.

MAN AND A WOMAN SEEN DRAGGING CHILD

New Letter Demands \$7,500 for Lad's Return—Rewards Now Aggregate \$6,000.

The police yesterday began a search of the West Side for seven-year-old Warren McCarrick, who was kidnapped from his home in Philadelphia twelve days ago. The information to the New York police came from Pietro Ghirardi, a carpenter, of No. 721 De Monte street, West Hoboken, N. J., who called at headquarters and said he was sure he had seen the lad at Eighth avenue and 25th street last Thursday morning.

The carpenter said the child was with a man and a woman and that it was being dragged unwillingly along Eighth avenue. He said the child was crying and that he heard the boy say, "I want to go home to my mamma."

Ghirardi was convinced yesterday, after studying the published pictures of the missing boy, that he had seen the child. Acting on this information detectives were sent out through the boarding houses and foreign tenements in the neighborhood where Ghirardi made his discovery.

At the same time Philadelphia detectives were following a clue at Clementon, N. J. William Smith and Albert Hicks, a negro, say they saw the child there at 9 o'clock Saturday night. Three men were with the boy, who was crying, and one of the men held him to prevent his running away. These two informants say the quartet started up the railroad tracks toward Atlantic City. Mrs. Shull, of Hammonton, says she saw the three men

and the boy pass her home in Hammonton, N. J., in a wagon.

Yesterday in Philadelphia the boy's father, James McCarrick, a clerk in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, issued a public appeal asking help in finding his son.

Rewards aggregating \$6,000 are now out for the youngster's return, and it is planned to have hundreds of pictures made of him for exhibition in moving picture theatres. In the mean time circulars and pictures of the lad are being sent broadcast through the country.

The father received a second letter yesterday demanding ransom for his child's return. The police are not inclined to take these letters seriously, thinking them to come from cranks or some persons who hope to get some money on the pretence that they can furnish information about the child.

The letter received yesterday follows: "Mr. James McCarrick—Now that so much money has been placed upon your son's return, I want to say that we will return him only upon receipt of \$7,500. He is at the present time safe, but unless we hear definitely through the papers concerning the matter within a day or two he will be safer where we expect to put him than if you had him with you. Further details will be sent if the newspaper items are satisfactory.—(Signed) U. S."

A revised description of the boy sent to the police of all cities surrounding Philadelphia reads: "Warren McCarrick, seven years old, about seventy-five pounds, medium build, sandy complexion, small scar on cheekbone under left eye, dressed in blue reefer overcoat, flip gum boots and red knitted cap."

BULLET BOUNCES OFF HEAD

Fails to Induce Negro to Pay for Meal or Stop Argument.

Paterson, N. J., March 23.—The lives of half a hundred persons were in peril to-night, when Frank Griffin, proprietor of a River street restaurant, shot Alphonso Price, a negro, in the head in an effort to induce him to pay his check.

"On the head" better describes the action of the bullet, for it bounced off his right temple and caromed into the ceiling. Price blinked, but kept on with his argument. Griffin was locked up.

EUGENICS FOR MEN OF 70

Dr. Wiley Cites Own Case as to Marriage in Late Life.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Madison, Wis., March 23.—Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, the former chief chemist of the Agricultural Department in Washington, came out flatfootedly in a speech here this afternoon for eugenic marriages for men of seventy years and over. He said he was not averse to citing his own case as an example, and declared his own babies were eugenic, if ever there were eugenic babies.

But the subject that was dearest to his heart, he said, was pure food, and immediately he launched upon a severe criticism of the Wilson administration of the

pure food laws, which Dr. Wiley helped to frame in the Roosevelt regime. He declared that Senator La Follette's proposed measure to strengthen those laws would be opposed by the most powerful lobby that food adulterators could raise.

STOLL GOES TO SEE WIFE

Throws No Light on Mysterious Attempt at Suicide.

H. Stewart Stoll, whose wife attempted suicide on Wednesday in their apartment at No. 324 West 158th street, following a mysterious telephone communication, visited her in the Washington Heights Hospital yesterday.

He refused to throw any light on the shooting. Mrs. Stoll's condition is serious.

B. Altman & Co.

will hold, this day (Tuesday),

An Important Special Sale of Women's Silk Gowns for Afternoon and Evening Wear

in smart styles, appropriate for dancing, at the exceptional price of \$27.50

The Afternoon Gowns are made of crepe charmeuse; the Evening Gowns, of taffeta, charmeuse and crepe imprime.

Fifth Avenue, 34th and 35th Streets, New York.

Keeping New York City's Telephones in Condition

NEW YORK CITY requires the best possible telephone service at all times.

Its telephones must be kept in condition for such service. We have a specially trained force of telephone inspectors, supervised by the "wire chief" in the central office, who make the repairs and adjustments that may be necessary at the subscribers' premises. We do all we can, both in the central office and at your premises, to protect telephone apparatus and to prevent interruption to your service.

You also can help to keep your telephone in perfect condition by co-operating with us and by observing the following practices:

Handle your telephone instruments carefully. An instrument that has been set down roughly on the desk, allowed to drop on the floor, or has the receiver placed on the hook with too much force, may have its efficiency impaired in such a way that unsatisfactory service results.

Keep desk stand telephones and receiver cords free from wet umbrellas, sponges, or damp locations.

Do not place glasses of water or ink-wells on Private Branch Exchange switchboards where they would be liable to tip over. Serious damage might result if the liquid found its way to the wiring.

Do not buy or use unauthorized devices that are sometimes offered for sale on the pretext that they will improve transmission, eliminate noise, destroy germs, supplant the Telephone Directory, etc. They are unnecessary, generally hurt the service, and are not sanctioned by this company.

The city's telephones are kept in the best possible condition by our inspection of instruments at the subscribers' premises. Your co-operation in the care of your telephone will help you to continue to receive—

"The Best Telephone Service in the World"

NEW YORK TELEPHONE COMPANY



"The telephone inspector makes the repairs and changes that may be necessary to keep your telephone in the most serviceable and workable condition."